

**Marcellus Shale Field Trip, Susquehanna Co., PA** – On 8/4/10, members of HSCD [4 OSCs and 3 managers] participated in a briefing and field trip arranged by the Northeast Region of PADEP (PADEP-NERO) to help educate federal, state and local responders on the response issues related to Marcellus Shale well drilling operations. Approximately, 30 people participated in the day long event. In addition to EPA and PADEP-NERO officials, also in attendance were officials from PADEP-Oil & Gas, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (regional and central offices), PADEP- Harrisburg, PADEP-Williamsport and Deputy Directors of two County Emergency Management Agencies in PA (Susquehanna Co. and Wyoming, Co.). The initial briefing conducted at PADEP's Wilkes-Barre office, included an excellent overview of gas drilling operations and state activities and resources to oversee the effort. Also, an update was provided on a PADEP air toxics study currently being conducted across 3 PADEP regional offices in areas where Marcellus Shale drilling operations are occurring. A principal goal of the study, which is expected to be completed this Fall, is to identify any immediate health risks to the public. The field visit portion of the day was hosted by Cabot, a gas well operator, working almost exclusively in Susquehanna Co. Cabot officials led tours of: 1) an active well drilling operation; 2) a set of wells prepared for hydraulic fracturing (ie. fracing); and, 3) an active gas producing operation. Changes which Cabot has instituted during gas well drilling, fracing and operating to provide for improved spill prevention and mitigation were highlighted. The day was very educational for all attendees and provided a good opportunity to discuss spill notification and response coordination. (D. Carney, 4-3241)